

POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KENYA, ESPECIALLY NAIROBI'S MAASAI VILLAGE 3466

Wafula NABUTOLA, Republic of Kenya

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



1

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Fear is the Key
- Peace Accord
- IDP Camps
- GDP Position
- The Kenya We Want vs. The Kenya We Don't Want
- The Maasai Village in Nairobi
- IDP Camps vs. Other Informal Settlements
- Conclusions
- Recommendations and Way Forward

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



2

1.00 INTRODUCTION

Early in 2008 Kenya was burning, literally.

- After presidential, national assembly and local government elections, on December 27th, 2007.
- The results of the elections were contested, violently in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Eldoret and Kisumu.
- 1,300 People Displaced
- Property worth \$1.5 billion destroyed.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KENYA



2.01 FEAR IS THE KEY

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps.

You hear only on TV news

Another country or another continent.

Kenya has hosted political refugees

(Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Uganda,

Zimbabwe, South Africa)

Kenyans had crossed into Uganda.



EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KENYA



2.01 FEAR IS THE KEY

- Kenyans, who have homes and farms, refuse to go back, they fear.
- It is a legitimate fear of actual bodily harm. Camp in football stadiums, or near prisons, or in church compounds, or police stations, public parks.
- Red Cross erected tents for IDP's..



EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



2.02 National Peace Accord

- February 28th, 2009 marked YR since the National Peace Accord was signed between Principals
 - Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga,
- Brokered by KOFFI ANNAN and Several Sitting and Retired African Presidents
- Corruption: Worst in the history of our nation.
- Media: An Act of Parliament passed to Gag the Media
- UN special envoy on extra judicial killings
- A.G. and Commissioner of Police ought to resign



EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



2.03 ONE YEAR LATER (IDP's)

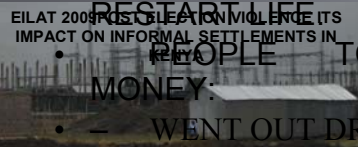
IDP CAMPS STILL EXIST.

NO Confidence in the security apparatus
Bitter that the government is not doing enough to resettle them.

- Government embarrassed to admit failure
- Forcing people out of these camps
- Declaring them closed.
- Families GIVEN 10K RETURN HOME and RESTART LIFE
- PEOPLE TOOK THE MONEY:
 - WENT OUT DRINKING



7



2.04 GDP Growth

In 2006, Kenya's GDP expanded by 6.1%
Projected to grow by 7.3% in 2008, but this was not to be.
In real terms there are more poor Kenyans than before.
Less disposable income than before;
Prices of goods and services risen
income distribution favours of the very few very wealthy.
Lower food production, thus demand exceeded supply.
Drought, which has led to rationing of water in towns.
Ten million people are facing starvation.



8

2.05 The Kenya We Want vs. the Kenya We Don't Want

Early February 2009 "The Kenya We Want"

So dissatisfied were some Kenyans that they organized a parallel conference called "The Kenya We Don't Want".

Current grand coalition government mired in grand corruption.

Fuel Shortage

Food Shortage.

Tourism scandal

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



9

3.00 NAIROBI'S MAASAI VILLAGE

One Sunday morning, I took a walk, along the north eastern border of Nairobi National Park. It is a border between an industrial area that has extended there over the last 10 years or so. I was keenly aware of the views of the National Park, the way some of the industrialists enjoy from their office. I was not aware of several features that I came to see.



EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



3.01 The Emergency Power Plant

Looking forward to a nice walk with fresh air and beautiful scenery.

Disappointed that run was taking me through heavily polluted air.

Imagine the deadening and deafening noise pollution,
When running simultaneously.

The power plant feeds the national grid, visible right there in a mesh of high voltage cables.

An example of Public Private Partnerships (PPP's).



11

3.02 Ordered Disorder

Next to the power plant there is a new residential area.

Neither was it one of the usual slum areas with hardly any space between houses, with sewage running down any open spaces, like Kibera for instance. It was a residential area that actually seemed planned to some extent. There were, what seemed, straight streets running down, dividing the sets of houses into blocks. The houses were, with out exception built of iron sheets, and hammered onto wooden frames.



12

3.03 Construction on-going

- was a Sunday morning construction was going on
- Giving an indication that there was high demand.
- Open pit latrines next to the uncompleted structure.
- Gaping holes, still unused, but filled with some water.
- Smelly and dangerous for the children playing nearby.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



13

3.04 Public Utility

Next to the power plant, there were no electricity poles in the entire area,

Majority of houses -TV aerials protruding from their roofs.

Car batteries or illegal (certainly dangerous) connections.

Public utility amenities missing are water and sewerage.

Saw people carrying water in 20litre jerry cans,

Water available at a distance, and not inside the houses.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



14

3.05 Social Infrastructure

Worship and preaching that echoes across the land.
We Kenyans are a very religious nation.
Several cars in immaculate condition parked in front of it.
Another was incomplete, gathering there for a service.
Curious to know if these persons are from within or without the estate.
There were several kindergartens –
No hospital, no clinic, no primary or secondary school.
People here were attracted towards the National Park.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



15

3.07 Overhead Flights

nobody seems to take any interest in the ease of aiming at any of the very same planes.

Later, I approached the Maasai Village from the side of the main road – the way the residents got to town, to work, to school. There is no public transport from Mombasa Road to the Maasai Village. some stone constructions, bars and shops, and more of the houses with iron sheets for walls and roofs.

Also here, construction is ongoing, with many new homes for new inhabitants, but no electricity, water or sewage systems.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



3.08 THE RISKS AND NUISANCES

Research in USA shows exposure to high voltage cables is Risky
Cables create magnetic fields to which children are especially vulnerable, the increased risk of cancer is similar to asbestos exposure.
The children living in Maasai village are not aware of this danger, neither are their parents.
Just happy to have somewhere to stay, away from the conflict zones.
AWSB has supplied the village with 3 water tanks with a capacity of ten cubic metres each.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



17

6.00 CONCLUSIONS

IDP camps, informal settlements have similarities and differences.
And even within the informal settlements the older more established ones like Kibera, Mathare, Korogochio, Mukuru Kwa Njenga.
Kibera, largest and most famous, become an institution all by itself.
It is estimated that informal settlements house about 2 million people.
Operate but not included in official plans of government.
No attention until barely 2 decades ago, after a study by the UN Habitat.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



18

6.00 CONCLUSIONS:

Similarities:

- They are home to many persons living close together but without services.
 - Population density is very high and the risk of diseases is high.
 - If fire starts there is little support from the the City Fire Services because of access.
 - Fire officials, beating them up perhaps for not arriving on time.
 - Materials do not meet minimum safety and comfort requirements.
 - Maasai village, it is in the flight path of JKIA
- They are all MEETING a real need, shelter, a sort of shield against the elements.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



19

6.00 CONCLUSIONS:

Differences

- Until 2007 elections IDP camps were unknown in Kenya.
- Kenya Red Cross, Rotary Clubs, in collaboration with government, the originator of the problem in the first place.
- It is not as disorganized and overcrowded as Kibera.
Located where it ought to be or at least very well aired.
Chance to be properly planned and serviced provided.
People need enablement and encouraged.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



20

7.00 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Elections without violence
 - Designed by political class to ensure that the poor continue to be impoverished and dependent on handouts. This must stop. Other times Kenyans of different communities live together perfectly harmoniously.
 - Who has right to land and by how much?
 - The Maasai Village has chance to be a model informal settlement, it is well spaced and has order.
- Any interventions needed can be done now.

EILAT 2009 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE ITS
IMPACT ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN
KENYA



21